

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~presenting data regarding~~ ranking products based upon data records stored in one or more devices and including data indicating product features and values corresponding to the product features, said method comprising:

assigning feature categories corresponding to product features to each for at least one product category based on available data in the data records;

assigning a weighted importance to ~~each the feature categories category of each product category~~ based on available data in the data records;

ranking ~~items~~ products in the product category according to the weighted importance of the feature categories included in each item;

receiving a selection from a user of at least one feature category that is of importance to the user for a the product category type;

assigning ~~a greater weight to~~ an increased weighted importance of the selected feature category; and

~~providing a ranked list of~~ ranking products in the product category based on the selected feature categories increased weighted importance of the selected feature category.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein assigning a weighted importance to each feature category comprises assigning a score between 0 and 100 to each feature category in a product category.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
assigning a tag of ~~essential_feature_category~~ to each essential feature category of
each product category based on available data;

assigning a relation type of ~~kind is a kind of~~ to each product category if the product
category includes all of the feature categories having the tag of
~~essential_feature_category~~ of another product category and includes at least one
feature category that the other product category does not have wherein the product
category is labeled a child category of the other product category and the other
product category is labeled a parent category of the child product category;

creating links within each product category to reflect the assigned ~~is a kind of~~
relation; and

using the ~~assigned is a kind of~~ relation to create at least one hierarchical product
category tree wherein each hierarchical category tree has a heading product category that is
only a parent category and changing the assigned weighted importance of a feature in the
parent category changes the assigned weighted importance of the feature in the child
category.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the assigned weighted importance of a
feature in a child category overrides weighted importance assigned to the feature in the child
category's parent category.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

assigning a property type to each feature category;
assigning evaluative metrics to each feature in each feature category based on the
feature category property type and available data unless the property type is a discrete
property type

wherein items in each product category are ranked based on each item's evaluative
metrics.

 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein assigning the property type
comprises:

assigning a numerical property type to a feature category ~~of numerical property~~ if the
features in the feature category are measured in a quantitative way;

assigning ~~[[a]]~~ an enumerated property type to a feature category ~~of~~
~~enumerated property~~ if the features in the feature category have a fixed number of specified
values including

assigning a sub-property type of discrete if one feature in a feature category is
not inherently more valuable than another,


assigning a sub-property type of scalar if one feature in a feature category is
inherently more valuable than another

assigning a sub-property type of Boolean if the features in a feature category
may have a valuation of only yes or no;

assigning a sub-property type of qualified Boolean ~~qualified Boolean~~ if the
feature in a feature category may have a valuation of yes, no, or optional; and

assigning a property type of text property ~~text property~~ if the features in the feature
category are represented by free form text.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
assigning a special meta-tag to a cluster of feature categories based on groupings derived from ~~available literature~~ the data records if the features of the categories may have a value consisting of one of: yes, no or optional.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
ranking items within a product category by the number of feature categories represented in an item within a cluster of feature categories.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
assigning a evaluative tag of forward metric ~~forward-metric~~ to a feature category if a value of an item in a product category increases as a numerical valuation of features within the feature category increases based on available data;
assigning a evaluative tag of backward metric ~~backward-metric~~ based on available data to a feature category if the value of an item in a product category decreases as numerical valuation of features within the feature category increases; and
assigning a evaluative tag of non applicable ~~non-applicable~~ based on available data to a feature category if the value of an item in a product category does not change with numerical valuation of features within a feature category,
wherein the evaluative tag is used to rank items in a product category.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
presenting a user with a choice of at least two feature categories for sorting; and
sorting items within a product category according to the user chosen feature categories, the weighted importance of all the feature categories and the evaluative metrics of the feature categories applied to the features within the feature categories.

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13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
deriving ranges of values within feature categories from available the data records to
determine natural ranges for grouping numerical features.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
presenting a user with sub-ranges of values within feature categories for filtering
product data to be presented.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
applying statistical analysis to derive the placement of an item within a product
category with respect to at least one feature category.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein statistical analysis is applied to derive the
placement of an item within a product category with respect to two feature categories.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising:
graphing the placement of an item within a product category.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
presenting the user with a graph of the placement of a user chosen item with respect to
other items in a product category based on the at least one feature category.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
assigning relation types to each product category to relate each product category to at

least one other product category if a related product category exists including

assigning a kind of relation type ~~of is a kind of~~ if a product category shares all the feature categories of another product category and has at least one feature category that the second product category does not have,

assigning a part of relation type ~~of is a part of~~ if items in a product category are used only by inclusion in items in a second product category,

assigning a accessory relation type ~~of is an accessory for~~ if items in a first product category are used only in conjunction with a second product category although the items in the second product category may be used without the items in the first product category,

assigning a resource relation type ~~of is a resource for~~ if items in a first product category are used only in conjunction with items in a second product category and must be replaced or replenished; and

creating links within each product category to reflect each assigned relation type.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising:

creating hierarchical category trees using the ~~is a kind of~~ kind of relation type assignments wherein each hierarchical category tree has one product category that is only a parent category.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~items~~ products in each product category are ~~items~~ products offered for sale by merchants.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~items~~ products in each product category are ~~items~~ products offered for sale on the internet.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
assigning a weighted importance to buying information categories of ~~each items~~
product based on available data and ranking merchants offering ~~each items~~ products based on
the weighted importance of the buying information categories.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
assigning evaluative metrics to the buying information categories of the product
categories and ranking the merchants offering each item based on the weighted importance of
the buying information categories and evaluative metrics of the buying information
categories.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the buying information categories include
price, shipping costs, shipping method and availability.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
allowing a user to choose an item from a list of ~~items~~ products in a product category;
and
displaying the merchants selling the chosen ~~items~~ products.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 further comprising:
displaying buying information for each merchant selling the chosen ~~items~~ products.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 further comprising:
displaying the merchant buying information in a ranked list wherein the merchant
buying information is ranked according to a weighted importance assigned to each buying
information category and evaluative metrics applied to each buying information category
based on ~~available~~ the data records.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of presenting data regarding products comprising:
assigning feature categories to each product category based on available data records
stored in one or more devices and including data indicating product features and values
corresponding to the product features;

assigning a property type to each feature category;

assigning evaluative metrics to each product feature in each feature category based on
the property type and available data unless the property type is a discrete property
type; and

~~wherein items~~ ranking products in a each-product category ~~may be ranked~~ based on
each item's evaluative metrics.

30. (Currently Amended) A system ~~presenting data regarding~~ ranking products based
upon data records stored in one or more devices and including data indicating product
features and values corresponding to the product features, said system comprising:

means for assigning feature categories corresponding to product features ~~to each~~ for at
least one product category based on available data in the data records;

means for assigning a weighted importance to ~~each~~ the feature categories ~~category of~~
~~each product category~~ based on available data in the data records;

means for ranking ~~items~~ products in the product category according to the weighted
importance of the feature categories included in each item;

means for receiving a selection from a user of at least one feature category that is of
importance to the user for ~~a~~ the product category type;

means for assigning ~~a greater weight to~~ an increased weighted importance of the
selected feature category; and

means for ~~providing a ranked list of ranking products in the product category~~ based on the ~~selected feature categories~~ increased weighted importance of the selected feature category.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method for ~~presenting data regarding ranking products based upon data records stored in one or more devices and including data indicating product features and values corresponding to the product features,~~ said method comprising:

assigning feature categories corresponding to product features ~~to each~~ for at least one product category based on available data in the data records;

assigning a weighted importance to ~~each~~ the feature categories ~~category of each product category~~ based on available data in the data records;

ranking ~~items~~ products in the product category according to the weighted importance of the feature categories included in each item;

receiving a selection from a user of at least one feature category that is of importance to the user for ~~[[a]] the product category type;~~

assigning a ~~greater weight to~~ an increased weighted importance of the selected feature category; and

~~providing a ranked list of ranking products in the product category~~ based on the ~~selected feature categories~~ increased weighted importance of the selected feature category.

32. (New) A method of ranking products based upon data records stored in one or more devices and including data indicating product features and values corresponding to the product features, said method comprising:

assigning feature categories corresponding to product features for at least one product category based on available data in the data records;

A2 assigning a weighted importance to the feature categories based on available data in the data records;

receiving a selection from a user of at least one feature category that is of importance to the user for the product category;

assigning an increased weighted importance of the selected feature category; and
ranking products in the product category based on the increased weighted importance of the selected feature category and the weighted importance of the other feature categories.
